

middle TOWN NEWS letter

December 2021

Christmas in the Park

Want a perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit? Take a break from the hustle and bustle and let's gather together (socially distanced, of course!) for Christmas in the Park.

We'll hear the Nativity Story, sing carols and light the Christmas tree. There will be hot beverages and treats to warm your tummy and a toasty fire to warm your toes.

Bring your lanterns (flashlights) and sleigh bells and come on down to the Town Green on Dec. 12 at 6pm.

FYI--things will be a little different this year. For safety reasons, everything will be held outdoors and there won't be a live nativity. But we'll still have a jolly time!

Friends of the Library

Story Walk – New Book!

The Story Walk that links the school and the town library has a new book every month. The Friends of the Library installed the Story Walk in September at the start of school. The newest book, *The Lion and the Little Red Bird* by Elisa Kleven, is up now.

Property Tax Reminder

Your property tax installment for the second quarter for 2021/2022 is due on or before Wednesday, December 15th. We are continuing to accept tax payments ONLY as follows:

1. MAIL to PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs, VT 05757 with a 12/15/21 or earlier postmark.
2. Deposit in the **DROP BOX on the OUTSIDE of the Town Office** by the end of the day of 12/15/21.

Tax payments received or postmarked after December 15, 2021, will incur a late fee of 1% for 3 months and 1.5% thereafter until paid.

Happy Holidays!

Jenny Talke Munyak, Town Treasurer

Special Town Meeting Results

On November 9, the bond vote for the town office building was held. 218 voters participated. The article passed with 130 Yes votes and 88 No votes, authorizing the Selectboard to borrow a sum not to exceed \$800,000.00, to be financed for a period not to exceed 30 years, for the purpose of financing the construction of a town office building on the corner of South and East Streets with an estimated project cost of \$973,000.00.

The Select Board will use the \$300,000-plus currently in the Facilities Fund to defray the total construction amount, and to use the ongoing \$50,000 Facilities Fund amount, already built into the yearly budget, to cover loan costs.

Watch the Selectboard minutes to keep abreast of the news. They can be found on the town website and at the town office. The Selectboard reports that there is no real news yet but that the minutes will keep people up to date.

Holiday Hours

The town office, transfer station, and library will have adjusted hours during the Christmas and New Year's weeks. They will be open all their regular hours except:

Town Office:

CLOSED on FRIDAY, 12/24

CLOSED on FRIDAY, 12/ 31

Fort Dumpster:

CLOSED on SATURDAY, 12/25

CLOSED on SATURDAY, 1/1

****OPEN**** instead on Wednesdays (12/29 & 1/5) and all the regular Mondays.

Library:

CLOSED on Friday, 12/24 and Saturday, 12/25.

CLOSED on Friday, 12/31 and Saturday, 1/1.

Passing the Torch

Some 26 years ago, Vicki Arsenault (and John!) purchased Grant's Village Store and began tirelessly serving the residents of this community and beyond. Following in the footsteps of Phil Grant, she certainly had big shoes to fill, but Vicki and her crew proved to be more than up to the task.

Whether it was getting up in the middle of the night to provide coffee and sustenance to fire department members responding to an emergency, opening the store early in the wee hours for our highway crew in the winter, remaining open and helping our small town navigate through the Covid pandemic, Vicki has always been there. She has done more than anyone that I can think of for this community, quietly and behind the scenes, faithfully supporting countless organizations and individuals in whatever capacity she could.

We will greatly miss Vicki and her consistent and steady influence in the center of town. Congratulations and best wishes, Vicki (and John!) in this new phase of your journey here in Middletown Springs. I hope that you can throw away that early morning alarm clock for good. - - Terry Redfield

Welcome to the new owners of the store: David and Amanda Crossman. Just like Vicki, they have some big shoes to fill. They are off to a great start! If you haven't stopped in yet, please do so. They have made some impressive changes to the interior while keeping the milk just where it has always been.

We wish them much luck and success in their new endeavor, and look forward to the many years of Crossman's Store at the heart of Middletown Springs.

Knitting Circle

Join novice-to-experienced knitters on the first Monday of the month (through May), 7-9 pm, at the library for inspiration, technical support, and quiet conversation. Other fiber arts are welcome: bring your crochet, felting, stitchwork, etc.

For more info, call Lois at 235-2374. As with all events in the library, masks are required until further noticed.

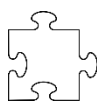
Seeking Proposals

The Selectboard of Middletown Springs is soliciting proposals for **the layout and production of the 2022 Town Report**. The job includes working with the town clerk and coordinating with numerous Town officers and non-profit bodies to collect annual reports and financial statements; graphic design to create an attractive and readable document, including collection and formatting of appropriate photographs; and coordinating with a printing contractor to deliver finished files and prepare completed copies for mailing no later than February 11, 2022.

Proposals should be sent to town clerk, Patty Kenyon at middletown@vermontel.net by noon on December 9, 2021. Proposals will be reviewed, and a decision made at the regular meeting of the selectboard on December 9, 2021.

Any questions over the details of the work requested should be directed to the town clerk – middletown@vermontel.net or 802-235-2220.

Office Hours: Mon & Tues 9am to 4pm;
Thurs & Fri 1pm to 4pm



Puzzle Exchange

Help refresh the library's puzzle exchange! Bring in puzzles you are finished with (no missing pieces, please) and take away one new to you.

Community Birthday Calendars

Thank you for supporting the library with your calendar subscription or paid ad in the 2022 town calendar. Stop in at the library and pick up your calendar.

A reminder for those who did not pay in advance: calendars are \$10. If you wanted one and did not get an order in on time, there are a few extra calendars (also \$10).

Library HOURS: open for walk-in service, as well as no/low-contact pick-up.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 2 pm - 6 pm
Friday 10 am – 2 pm Saturday 10 am – Noon

New and New-to-us at the Library

Adult Fiction

Marley by Jon Clinch
Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr
The Book of the Unnamed Midwife by Meg Elison
The Sentence by Louise Erdrich
The Guest List by Lucy Foley
When All Is Said by Anne Griffin
The Final Confession of Mabel Stark by Robert Hough
Five Tuesdays by Lily King
The High Mountains of Portugal by Yann Martel
Marked Man by Archer Mayor
The Pursuit of William Abbey by Claire North
The Icarus Girl by Helen Oyeyemi
The Butler by Danielle Steel
Oh William! By Elizabeth Strout

Children's Collection

Ocean: a Visual Encyclopedia
I Am Small by Emma Dodd
Eyewitness Oil by Eyewitness
Rocks and Minerals by Eyewitness
Digger the Dinosaur by Rebecca Kai Dotlich
Look At Me! by Rachel Fuller
My New Baby by Rachel Fuller
Waiting For Baby by Rachel Fuller
Tales of the Shimmering Sky by Susan Milord
Dogsong by Gary Paulsen
I Survived Nature Attacks! by Lauren Tarshis
I Survived the American Revolution, 1776
by Lauren Tarshis

Snowshoes at the Library

SNOWSHOES at the Library? Check them out!!!
The Library has 5 pairs of adult shoes (3 men's & 2 women's, 3 pairs of poles) plus 6 children's pairs and 1 pair of toddler snowshoes to circulate. They go out for three days at a time, like the park passes. The person checking them out must be 18+ and is responsible for any pairs checked out. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Public Comment Notice

The Federal Aviation Administration is considering a request by the US Air Force to permanently establish the Chugs Military Operations Area (MOA) in the vicinity of Londonderry. The map of the proposed flyover area includes the southeastern portion of Middletown Springs. This [link](#) below takes you to the full letter.

The proposed number of sorties annually is 340, 8-12 times per month for 30 minutes per activation, at 9000 feet altitude, during daylight hours. The using agency is the 104th Fighter Wing of the Massachusetts Air National Guard based in Westfield, Mass. Prior to reaching a final decision, the FAA is providing an opportunity for public comment on any aeronautical impacts that would result from this request. The comment period ends on January 10.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n5XyzFROPJUMWEkPQa-v8wF79WnpHIBU/view?usp=sharing>



**Wishing Everyone a Safe &
Happy Holiday!**



Happy New Year!!



Calendar of Events

Christmas in the Park	Dec 12	Sun, 6 pm	Town Green
Property Tax DUE	Dec 15	Wed, all day	Town Office

Regular Meetings	Schedule	Location	Contact Person
Conservation Commission	2nd Thurs /TBA	TBA	Elizabeth Cooper (235-1406)
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues /6:30 pm	Firehouse	Joe Castle (235-2160)
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2nd Tues / 7:15 pm	Library	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1st Thurs / 7 pm	MSHS	David Wright (235-2376)
Library Trustees	4th Wed / 7 pm	Library	Kristal Hier (235-1297)
Planning Commission	1st Mon /	Town Office	Hilary Solomon (235-1115)
Selectboard	2nd & 4th Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Town Facilities Planning	1st & 3rd Thurs / 7 pm	Town Office	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Wells Springs School Board	1st Wed	MSES/WES	Meredith Morgan (235-2059)

Town Newsletter

Lots of information in a snippet & list format, plus a Calendar of Events. No ads, articles, or minutes.

This supplements and enhances the Town website & Front Porch Forum (FPF) and will serve the needs of those who don't regularly use computers.

Digital copies are available as a PDF. The PDF is posted on FPF and the Town website or is sent free via email to those who sign up. It is also available in hard copy, delivered by USPS, to those who subscribe for \$6 a year postage. Copies are posted at the Town Office, Grant's Village Store, and the Library.

Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library
middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com

PO Box 1206

Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Deadline: 25th of the month

Front Porch Forum

Join Front Porch Forum to know what is happening between issues of the middleTOWN NEWSletter. It's free. It's local.